

Letters

Dear Jim and Coral,

Just a brief note to fill you in on a lecture by J. Allen Hynek that a friend and I attended at the University of Rhode Island on Sunday April 23, at 8 p.m., in Edwards Hall.

The auditorium holds approximately 600 people and it was nearly full -- the vast majority college students. I was surprised that there was not more of the general public in attendance.

Hynek spoke for an hour and 40 minutes. He had a number of slides, photographs and drawings which were flashed on the screen intermittently throughout his lecture. For the most part he stuck to the middle of the road in general discussion, lest he ruffle anyone I suppose. He mentioned his shift in position from the Bluebook days, to his present stance of. . .whatever.

He soft-pedaled the Condon Study, paid homage to his "scientific" cohorts, and in general bolstered the "scientific community" in its efforts and methods of researching. Big deal -- my own Chem. Prof. years ago tried to convince me that man would never fly through space -- so much for Science!

The best I could gather is that Hynek believes that something is going on, that it should be studied (scientifically) and that he leans toward its (whatever it is) being from a parallel dimension. Like all the rest of the recent crop of "scientific" types coming out of the woodwork these days, he is not ready to commit himself unless he has a sure bet.

At best his information seemed hesitant, incomplete and uncertain. He is well versed in such cases as Betty and Barney Hill, Pascagoula, Zamora, etc., as are most people who are on top of the UFO picture to begin with. He takes a good deal of credit for the Walton case which irritates me to no end, and he presumes a great deal more than he should.

He continues to downplay the importance of the independent agencies without naming them of course. I make a particular point of this, and of his using the extracted information from these agencies to springboard himself into national prominence, in my book "UFOlogy from the Field."

Upon his remarks concerning the flap of mid 1973 and that, "no one was doing anything about it," I was on the point of challenging him as to where HE was back in FEBRUARY of '73 when the flap was well underway; however, my friend restrained me.

He took a survey of the audience as to how many had seen what they considered to be a definite UFO. About 70 hands responded. Only 2 responded as to having reported the incident. The rest of his survey consisted of those who had:

Belief in parallel dimension--about 5%.

Belief in earthly origin--practically nil.

Belief in mass hysteria--practically nil.

Belief in para-psychological origin--about 5%.

Belief in hallucinations--practically nil.

Belief in extra-terrestrial origin--about 90%.

Periodically he dragged in some tired humor and old jokes stolen by Milton Berle years ago, and in general did nothing to enlighten the picture of UFO's. I learned nothing; could have added to his limited knowledge, frequently wanted to correct him, and certainly could have improved upon his showmanship.

As a matter of fact, like Sagan, he shows some definite indications that he's not even sure what ASTRONOMY is all about.

However--

There was a discussion and coffee hour in the lounge of the Memorial union afterward which I passed up--much to the relief of my friend.

At any rate, I was glad I attended if only to observe one more pompous PhD scattering his lofty unfertile seeds of Whizdom!

While on the subject of presentations, I can't help but make a few remarks about Jack Webb's Project UFO. It's awful! I just can't believe that Jack Webb would produce anything so incredibly bad. The first few programs started off not too badly. Then, of course, he began masking names, changing locations, distorting facts, and the whole program went down hill fast. His two Air Force people are a farce.

I know many people that have watched the program and who have made comments to me about its all around poor quality. People being a great deal more sophisticated and generally better informed since Orson Wells' "War of the Worlds" broadcast in '38, just aren't buying the presentation no matter which side the Air Force seems to take. The whole thing is just not believable to them.

From the comments I have received, even people who have never investigated anything let alone UFO's, not only laugh at it but, are sharp enough to spot the discrepancies, gross mistakes in investigative procedure, general mushiness of the episodes and the non-credibility of the Air Force investigators.

By and large it is a poor job which I stopped watching after the first few weeks. I can't help but wonder if there is some ulterior motive behind such unprofessional sop. It doesn't seem possible that Jack Webb would produce such an unconvincing job on his own. If it is just another behind-the-scene attempt by the military or CIA to "pooh-pooh" UFO's then, of course, it is on a par with all of their previous juvenile nonsense.

No matter, the program certainly doesn't make things any easier for the independent agencies and their investigators. The one saving grace is that, people ARE more sophisticated and AREN'T swallowing such nonsense as easily as they would have years or even one year ago.

Best regards,
Donald Todd
Field Investigator
Rhode Island

the apro bulletin

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THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

April, 1978

OBJECT OVER STATE PARK

By Joe and Doris Graziano

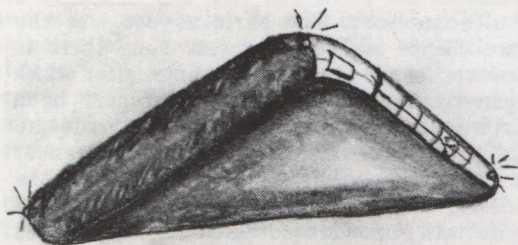
On Wednesday, March 22, 1978 at approximately 11:00 p.m. EST, Gary Oickle, 24, his brother David, 22, and two friends, Barry Smith, 22 and Ken Cabot, 25 were around a campfire talking in Patapsco State Park at the Baltimore & Ohio railroad tunnel. Barry and David were about 50 feet away from the others when they noticed a strange object in the southeastern sky which disappeared over a ridge in the distance. They watched the object for about 10 seconds and could see no particular details except a rough shape. Barry described it as a flat looking object.

They then walked back to the fire to tell the other two about what they had seen when another similar object appeared directly over the four of them from behind a ridge to their north. The object was described as a huge triangular shaped object with large windows and three white lights at the corners. The size was estimated from "a quarter the size of a football field" to "150-200 feet on each side". The object moved very slowly, hovering at times, in a southeastern direction following the contour of the ridges just above the trees.

When it appeared above them it was very low, approximately 200-250 feet, and made a sound like a "quiet wind" or "quietly rushing waterfall". The witnesses watched the object for approximately 15 to 20 seconds until it disappeared behind the trees. Three of the witnesses thought they could see the shadow or silhouette of a figure at the windows. Three of the witnesses also reported seeing a bright star-like object in the southern sky immediately after the sighting. Two of them said the star-like object changed colors; blue, green, yellow, red, repeatedly, while the other thought the object may have been a helicopter or something in the distance.

Two of the witnesses thought that the large triangular object had a "metallic" or "bluish-gray" color, but all four agreed that it had three white lights at the corners and a blinking red light on the top.

None of the witnesses were frightened by the experience but, quite the contrary, were very curious and even yelled at the object hoping it would land. All had also read something of UFOs previously but none had seen anything like this before.



The Patapsco Object - See Column Two

CE-II Encounter in Phoenix, Arizona

The following is the first-person narrative of the witness of a close encounter of the second kind. Name of witness withheld upon request.

In late May or early June of 1963, I sighted an Unidentified Aerial Object in a residential section of Phoenix, Arizona — the 1100 block of East Portland Street, not far from the 12th Street intersection. The sighting occurred as my two children and myself were returning home from a walk one Spring evening. I would set the time at about 8:30 or 9:00 P.M. I can't be sure. If I had a watch, I didn't check it. I should like to make it clear that had I not looked up, I could not possibly have seen what I did as it was absolutely silent. My chief concern was for the children — that they not be frightened. I, myself, was severely shaken — in fact, terrified. I'm sure this was because, whatever it was, was so close — no more than 18 to 20 feet from me and roughly 15 to 18 feet from the ground. It was a clear night — the stars were out and the visibility very good. I do not remember a moon. We were walking along the sidewalk, not far from home. There was a small Palm tree in the front yard in question (lawn section to the right) and a garage to the right of the object — a house to the left. I found it difficult to believe that anything that size and shape could

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Phoenix

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maneuver itself into a position so close to the house. The U.F.O. was in the side yard adjacent to the house. The object itself was round with three concentric circular rings, lessening in size from the outer edge to the center. It was exceptionally beautiful and about the size of a compact car, perhaps slightly larger. I can't adequately describe the whiteness and the brilliance — there aren't any words for it. The lines of the craft were clearly drawn except for one specific area. Here the intense glow and luminescence made it impossible to describe anything. It was a kind of rimlike halo and the glow seemed to radiate from within.

Perhaps, these were windows. I do not know. The top of the craft was completely white and smooth and appeared flat. Though it (the top) was very bright white, the bottom was dark and appeared even flatter. In other words, looking from the bottom, you would note a slight dome-like appearance; whereas, with the top view, this was not the case. The bottom appeared to be dull metal, medium to dark gray in color with some kind of tubelike protrusion visible at an angle to the left side. That's all I remember about the underside of the craft, and this was definitely a craft of some sort. The eerie aspect was the absolute silence as the thing just hung there in space — stationary for a few moments, after which it began to waver slightly (quiver would be a better word). This wavering motion made me fearful of a possible hypnotic influence.

Not far from the craft, on the left side of the front lawn, stood a middle-aged man, holding a hose. He was in shadow, dressed in work clothes and looked fairly ordinary. The area was quite dark — the only light was that from the Object reflecting upward and a nearby street light. I was on the verge of saying: "Sir, do you see what I see," but I could not speak. He paid no attention to the craft nor to me. All this occurred in less than one minute or so it seemed. I lost all track of time. It seemed as if all life had stopped except for the three of us, as if we were somehow frozen in time. Even the sound of insects could no longer be heard.

I knew I had to get away quickly, as I had the distinct feeling something might happen to us. I was more than a little agitated and mainly concerned for the safety of my children. I felt we were somehow being observed.

When I first sighted the Object, I only thought: "My God, what is that?" I wanted to run but could not. I was able to walk away and my feeling of fear gave way to a kind of euphoria. I was suddenly happy and I can't explain why.

When I reached home, I saw the clock on the mantle facing me, but I do not remember the time. It seemed very late, later than it should have been, and I sent the children to bed. I pushed open the screen door, because I wanted to go back, but still I was somehow afraid. I knew the U.F.O. would be gone and I had this feeling of sadness and depression.

I was very much afraid during the encounter. Upon leaving the scene, I felt a sense of euphoria and finally sadness. As for animals, though normally the neighborhood was overrun with dogs and cats, there were none at the time of the sighting. Not even the sound of insects could be heard. It was as if everything had suddenly stopped or been suspended in time. Because I was outside, I have no way of knowing the effects, if any, on radio. I saw no autos in motion, though there were several parked cars in the vicinity. I would have no idea of the effects of clocks and as

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for soil and plants, I am not sure about them, as I did no close checking.

Heavy cable wires and electric lines were strung all along the neighborhood yards — some extremely low-lying. One or two street lights were visible. They were not affected.

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UFO OVER LAX

by Dennis Leartart

Field Report:

Case: Floyd P. Hallstrom

Date: January 1st, 1978

Time: Approximately 1:07 p.m.

Weather: Clear

Location: Los Angeles International Airport

Classification: CE-O

There are no words to describe how realistic this particular case is. Of the ten or eleven years that I have been researching UFO's, this is the most outstanding and remarkable of all for the following reasons:

1. The witness is highly credible. He has had 37 years of flying experience.
2. He made tapes and notes of every possible detail that he could recall immediately during and after the event.
3. His Vantage point in the sky for viewing the object was next to perfect.
4. He shares the common frustration of many witnesses of what to do when no one would listen.

I found Mr. Hallstrom to be a very highly intelligent man of 56 years who in no uncertain terms knows that what he saw was real, physical, and something not made on this earth.

Briefly, Mr. Hallstrom was flying from Oxnard, California to Brown's Field in San Diego. His selected route took him over LAX and flying in a Cessna 170A heading 130 on VOR. Out in the distance he saw an object which at first appeared to be a pinpoint traveling towards him. At first, he tried to see the wings, there were none. At closer range, he thought it could be a helicopter. It wasn't. It was traveling too fast. Its estimated speed (as later calculated by Mr. Hallstrom) was 650 mph. The object had no business going that fast near a heavily congested airport, nor should it have been at the estimated altitude of 6,500 Ft. The craft was a perfect half-sphere with small

windows (dark) around its circumference on top of what appeared to be a base of about 3 ft. thick. He could see the sun in its highly polished, very sanitary, surface as it approached him. "It was not aluminum, he claimed, "but more like nickel or highly polished steel or chrome." The flying saucer, not a UFO, because Mr. Hallstrom had identified it as such, headed at about 310 ° towards the Hollywood Hills. Mr. Hallstrom's altitude at the time was about, 7,500 ft.

He immediately tried to contact LAX. Since the airwaves were highly congested around LAX he called for any FSS to respond. Ontario radio responded immediately. They advised him to contact Brown's field, which he did while airborne and they told him to contact the FAA in Oxnard (home base). In calling the FAA, they quoted their manual, saying, "if hostility involved report to local law enforcement agency; otherwise, report to any institute of higher learning who would be interested" -- none listed.

Mr. Hallstrom, in extreme frustration, reported to the newspaper his encounter, went on a local radio talk program, and has written several letters to various government agencies from the Department of the Interior on down. (Can we blame him?). Finally, by reading the article in our local newspaper, I contacted him in an interview that lasted over two hours. I was extremely impressed with the details, the drawings, and the retention of knowledge he had acquired for an event that had lasted for less than a minute.

Mr. Hallstrom, a military man, wants to do everything he can to help. He does not object to having his name used in connection with this case, would be willing to take a lie detector test, even be put under hypnosis to remember any details he might have forgotten. Mr. Hallstrom was not an "unbeliever" in the UFO phenomena, because many people he has met through the years have had similar experience. He is now absolutely sure of their existence. This was his first encounter, and he sincerely hopes that it is not his last. In his own words he sums it best by saying, "Life is great . . . life is beautiful . . . this is just one more brilliant spot in the diamond."

Since this was a single witness event, in an area heavily populated, you would think at least one other witness would have reported something that day. There was. On January 1st, at 1:17 p.m. another object was sighted (or the same one) in Downey (about 20 miles from the airport). Confirmed by the Phenomena Research Organization in Seattle, Washington. The witness described this object as being a metallic spheroid that rotated. This is not inconsistent with Mr. Hallstrom's sighting, since he viewed the object from the top. This observer saw it from the bottom perhaps--this will have to be checked further. Anyone who could give further details about the incident would be highly appreciated. Mr. Hallstrom has had many sleepless nights reviewing
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LAX *(Continued from Page Three)*

the event in his mind and wondering what the specific details of the report from Downey or others may contain. I have committed myself to do all that I and the organization can do for him.

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1977 UFO Landing In Australia

On May 31st, 1977, UFO Research (N.S.W. Australia) was notified of a possible landing near Orange, which had allegedly taken place only a few days earlier. Bill Chalker spoke with one of the percipients on June 1st, and a field investigation was arranged and conducted on Sunday, June 5th. Chalker (industrial chemist), Anne Browne (clinical psychologist) and Dr. G.T. Stevens made up the UFOR investigation team and were assisted by Orange area investigator, Terry Bishop. The following report is based on that investigation:

On the night of May 26th, 1977 (Thursday) at about midnight, on a farming property about 11 km east of Orange, Mrs. H. was in bed reading a book, when she heard their dog barking and a corralled horse whinnying and stomping around its enclosure in a most agitated manner. Thinking some stray animal or dog had wandered into the area, she was about to get up to investigate, when her 16 year old son, rushed into her bedroom.

He was obviously in a very agitated and panicky state, and exclaimed, "Mum I've seen it!" Thinking he had observed the cause of the animal disturbance she said, "What, a big dog?". "No! A great big light!"

He then described how he too, had heard the agitation of the horse and the dog and had looked directly out his bedroom door. Some 90 metres away in an approximately N.W. direction from the house, he saw a very bright light complex, either on or near the ground. The light source consisted of about 4 bright white lights in a row. The whole thing seemed to slowly increase in brilliance, then upon reaching a brilliant intensity, began to wane in brightness, taking on an orange-red hue just before the illumination was extinguished.

It was at this point, that the boy ran in to alert his mother. She immediately went with him to his bedroom, but could not see anything in the darkness, on the hillside. Mrs. H. went through the house to the front door, from where she was surprised to see that a paddock across the road running in front of their property was brightly

illuminated by an apparent monochromatic white light source. Mrs. H. then moved over to the nearby fence, and from there she could make out the apparent source of the illumination. In about a N.N.W. direction, she made out a bright elongated rectangular object which appeared to have about four "square windows" along its side. This whole complex appeared to move slowly over and around the crest of the hill. Mrs. H. ran back inside the house and returned to the fence with her son. All that could be seen now was a bright glow in the same area, but this too eventually disappeared.

Corroborative incidences include the noise, disturbance, noise over neighbouring properties, animal disturbances on other properties, and at least two independent sightings of UFO's at the same time by local factory shift workers.

When morning came, Mrs. H.'s son went up to the area where he saw the light source on or near the ground. He was looking for shell cartridges (to confirm the unlikely spotlights hypothesis) or burn marks. He found nothing of this nature and school attendance then required him to give up any further inspection. Later that same morning his mother went up to the spot and started to make a more detailed inspection. She found two unusual indentations, which consisted of circular areas denuded of grass with a covering of very finely graduated soil. Mrs. H. gave up looking any further because of the bitter cold, but she told a friend of the family, who in turn informed UFOR of the incident. We contacted Terry Bishop, our representative in Orange, immediately. During the intervening period it had rained and snowed. Because of this the traces had deteriorated in condition but were still clearly visible. T. Bishop made a preliminary field inspection and confirmed that there were in fact 4 indentations of the type pointed out to him by Mrs. H. They were all about 5 c.m. in diameter and arranged in a trapezoid shape. There were no other apparent effects at the grassed site, both inside and outside of the imprint area. The length of the trapezoids side were 5.3m., 10.1m., 4.3m., and 5.8m.

The investigators were of the collective opinion that the witnesses were truthful and described the details of the event they witnessed to the best of their ability.

It is of particular interest that both percipients reported after-image effects which reflects the brilliant nature of the light source observed. The boy described only an after-image effect which he felt was normal after exposure to the unknown light source, while his mother described seeing black squares before her eyes when she went indoors (I). Apart from spectroscopic analyses (which revealed nothing untoward) the soil samples from the site (both imprint and control samples) were also subjected to inspection via the thermoluminescence process by Dr. G. Stevens. Overseas scientists have used this process to study the effects of ball lightning on a church steeple and a brick house, atom bombs on roofs, a UFO on soil

(Zeller, 1976) and a number of other areas.

The thermoluminescent technique effectively measures the amount of radiation damage in a sample. A major advantage is that (apart from an effect which disappears within a day or so) this radiation damage in quartz - a major component of soil, is relatively stable and old sites can be reinvestigated using this technique. This method is potentially capable of detecting the effects of any ionising radiation from a UFO and also measuring any heating effects. (2)

In the case of the Orange site, superphosphate had been spread about a week previous to the event in question, thereby supplying a natural reference for dosimetry. It was found that if any ionizing radiation was involved the ground would have received less than 100 rad and that any heating involved in forming the cleared patches would have been below 205°C. (3)

Because only 4 imprints were extant after the UFO event, we need to compare it closely with the Imprint Catenas compiled by Fred Merritt of CUFOS. His Caten I features irregular 4 sided imprints of which Socorro (1964: 2.9m., 3.6m., 4.5m., 4.0m.) is the best known example. The object seen at Orange however does not fit the primary characteristics of his catena, which is based on only 3 cases - "the least compelling of the 5 Catenas". (4) Australia has a paucity of trapezoid type imprint cases, the only other incident being near the Mount Flora - Dingo road near Nebo, northern Queensland during March, 1975. Its dimensions were 6'8", 5'6", 9' and 7'6". (5)

Perhaps the Orange case was not a landing as such, but instead 4 remote sampling devices which were extended from the object proper, which would have hovered just above the ground. It would appear that the object's tenure was quite short and if a landing had taken place with the irregular non-symmetrical arrangements of the prints being due to the sloping site (6) then this fact may have been responsible for the lack of a more remarkable trace (say as compared to the Penrith trace case of April, 1976). (7)

Notes and references:

- (1) R. F. Haines 'Psychophysical and biological aspects of viewing very bright objects', *Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference (1976 CUFOS)*, and G. M. Murch's 'Visual and Auditory Perception' (1973).
- (2) G. Stevens, 'Collection of samples in Trace Cases', *ACOS Bulletin*, No. II-September, 1977.
- (3) G. Stevens, 'An analysis of an alleged UFO landing site near Orange, N.S.W.' September, 1977.
- (4) F. Merritt, 'A preliminary classification of some reports of UFO's based on shape and dimensions of imprint patterns' (1976 CUFOS)
- (5) R. A. A. F. Investigation report - personal files (B. Chalker)
- (6) In fact the lowest imprint was impressed further into the ground, which seems to

support the hypothesis that more weight was distributed on this imprint than any of the others.

(7) UFOIC Newsletter, No. 49

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UNDERWATER UFO WITH "MOTHER SHIP"

By Donald R. Todd

Walt Hammel (pseudonym) aged 48, is a TWA pilot. After a previous encounter reported to the FAA and upon ensuing company and other authoritative harassment, has sworn never to report another UFO encounter. Fortunately he has confidence in APRO's and my confidentiality and discretion.

Thursday December 22, 1977, 11:40 p.m. Captain Walt Hammel and Lt. Slim Dickson flew out of Boston's Logan International Airport. (Both names are pseudonyms)

At 4:45 p.m. Friday December 23, 1977, Captain Hammel called me to report a UFO close encounter and that he wanted to talk it out. At 5:30 p.m. Capt. Hammel and I met at the Pagoda Chinese Restaurant in North Kingstown, Rhode Island and Capt. Hammel narrated the following:

"We were out about six hundred miles over the Atlantic at 21,000 feet heading in to Logan. The weather was clear except for some widely scattered clouds beneath us. It was 11:40 p.m. and I had a guy by the name of Slim Dickson as co-pilot. We had just been having a cup of coffee and Slim had set his cup on the panel next to his right elbow. As he put the cup down, he glanced out to what would be between One and Two o'clock, and suddenly he grabs me by the arm.

"Reflexively I swiveled by head to look at him and caught this dazzle of twinkling lights coming at us from the starboard side, just ahead, and appearing maybe about fifty feet below. Instantly Slim and I realized that whatever the thing was, it was moving in a hurry, that it was entirely too close, and appeared to be about to cross in front of, or about to collide with us. And it was huge!

"I slammed on some power, hauled the nose up and prayed we'd go over the top of that thing. Just as we started to climb, this thing swept straight up, did an impossible right angle turn and begins to pace us. I don't see how ANYTHING could have executed a maneuver like that -- I mean almost a simultaneous two-directional turn -- up and to the right, not to mention coming to damned near a dead stop!

"We couldn't detect any sound, see any prop or jet wash, nor see any exhaust. It just kept flashing a lot of lights around the middle. Once we leveled

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Underwater

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off again, the thing stayed just ahead of us off to our right and we had a chance to observe it. We couldn't see any hard outline or shape to it but, you could tell it was circular because of the lights.

"The lights were mostly white." Here Walt Hammel grinned. "This is going to make you laugh and sound nutty as hell. But do you know what it reminded me of? It reminded me of an Oreo cookie." Hammel put his hands together in a circle. "There was a red blinking light on top of the thing with all of those twinkling, silvery-white lights on around the middle. In other words, there was darkness between the red light on top and the white lights around the middle, and then darkness below the lights again.

"A little later the thing rose up and there was another red blinking light on the bottom of it. So with the dark on top and the bottom, and the silvery-white lights in the middle, it just reminded me of an Oreo cookie.

"It looked as if about every dozen or so lights around the middle, there was a reddish-purple one, and in between THEM, there was a blue one. But they were all blinking off and on intermittently.

"I don't mind telling you I was nervous as hell, and Slim, he was chalk white and scared stiff. It suddenly occurred to me. . . what if the passengers are watching that thing? What am I going to tell them? I didn't want panic back there, so I buzzed the stewardess. When she came on the phone I asked her how things were back there? She answered, "Okay, why?" I said, "Oh, nothing. Just checking." I figured as long as she hadn't made any mention of the thing out there, then evidently none of the passengers had spotted it. The object may just have been far enough forward to be out of their sight line.

"Now comes the wacky part of the whole thing. While we were watching the UFO, suddenly this other glowing thing drops out from underneath it. The damned thing drops out from underneath it. The damned thing looked like a neon-green smoke ring. It dropped away from the larger UFO down toward the water. . . and submerged! We saw the glowing green circle of water where it went in, and then the glow disappeared!

"Seconds later, two more green rings dropped out. The second one dropped away and submerged like the first one, but the third one dropped down and then shot straight ahead to disappear toward the coast.

"It was hard to tell sizes but, afterward over a couple of beers, Slim and I finally came to the conclusion that the BIG one must have been all of a hundred feet across, or maybe even more. By comparison, the smaller ones looked like they

might have been twenty feet across.

"I guess the big UFO paced us for about twenty minutes, then all of a sudden the lights around the middle began going out in clusters -- not in banks of say, six or eight in a row, but six or eight separate individual lights at the same time, like someone inside was throwing switches. The top and bottom blinking red lights went out too with only scattered blue lights around the middle still blinking.

"As our eyes became accustomed to the dark again, we could faintly see the silhouette of. . . like two inverted shallow soup bowls put together. Then very faintly just above the mid-lateral line, we could see a soft subdued green glow emanating from what appeared to be trapezoidal shaped windows. . . you know. . . wider at the bottom than at the top.

"Just about the time our eyes got focused on the windows, the thing assumed an overall bluish corona. Then it took off straight ahead like a cut cat, leaving nothing in front of us but a blue streak in the sky. It was positively the damnedest thing I've ever seen. When we finally came in to Logan, we must have hit the runway half a dozen times I was so damned nervous."

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Object Over Mojave

By Dave Kenney

A yellow-orange light, which sporadically flared bright orange, was seen in the skies over the Mojave Desert on the evening of May 2 by two witnesses. David Melton and Lisa Fields, both of Inglewood, Calif., had stopped at a dry lake bed off of Interstate 40 near Bagdad, Calif., about 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles, to observe the brilliant display of stars in the clear sky of the high desert. At about 8:30 they noticed a light at about 35 degrees above the horizon, moving in a southwest to northeast direction. As they watched, it suddenly flared bright orange and then dimmed. Their first impression was that it was a tumbling satellite.

Mr. Melton carries a small Sears 10X-30X refractor telescope in his car at all times and had been using it to look at the moon and at airliners passing overhead. He focused the scope on the slow moving light but was unable to see any definite shape. As it passed overhead, it began to dim until it was barely visible, and they assumed that it was indeed a satellite and was passing into the earth's shadow. But as they watched, it again flared to a bright orange color. It pulsated several more times in this manner, at irregular intervals, and finally disappeared behind the mountains to the northeast. The object was in view for about 5 minutes and did not change course or speed.

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UFO Related Information From the FBI File

By Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee
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GREEN FIREBALLS

Early in 1949 it became clear to the FBI that the Air Force was taking reports of anomalous phenomena seriously, as was indicated by the publication of a document dated Feb. 15, 1949 and entitled "Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum Number 4" which was signed by General C.P. Cabell, Major General USAF, Director in Intelligence, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations. This document was a prototype sighting form which had a twofold purpose: a) to enunciate continuing Air Force requirements for information pertaining to sightings of unconventional aircraft and unidentified flying objects, including the so-called "Flying discs", and b) to establish procedures for reporting such information. Any information obtained was to be submitted on AF form 112 (a sighting form) which could be filled out by the observer. The Requirements Memorandum, which was marked restricted, was apparently to be filled out by the person interviewing the witness (i.e., by an agent of the Air Force, FBI, CIA, or whatever) and, along with the usual questions about time, location, directions and duration of sighting, appearance, etc., it included questions that would pertain to details about aircraft (wings, aerodynamic list of fuselage, type of propulsion, visible exhaust, existence and location of stabilizers, air ducts, slots, etc.) and questions that pertained to the observer (hobbies; ability to determine speed, color, angular size; reliability as determined by acquaintances, police and FBI records, and the employer). This memorandum was circulated to the Commanding Generals of the Major Air Commands throughout the world, all U.S. Air Attaches, the Director of the CIA, Special Assistant for Research and Intelligence of the Department of State, Director of Intelligence of GSUSA, the Chief of Naval Intelligence, the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Director of the FBI. The receipt of this memorandum, plus the confidential information from the Resident Engineer at Oak Ridge referred to in a previous section of these papers, Part III, page 4, plus the green fireball flap, resulted in the following memorandum from Mr. Fletcher to Mr. Ladd concerning "FLYING DISCS" (March 14, 1949):⁵⁹

"The approval of the Executives Conference is requested for the attached SAC letter furnishing to the field the type of information desired by the Intelligence Division of the Air Force in connection with the captioned matter (flying discs)."

"You will recall that by Bulletin No. 57, Series 1947, dated October 1, 1947, the field was advised that effective as of that date the Bureau had discontinued its investigative activities in connection with flying discs. The field was advised that all future reports concerning this matter received in the field should be referred to the Air Forces.

"Mr. E., (name crossed off) Resident Engineer, Air Material Command, Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft Research (note: Project NEPA), Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has recently and confidentially advised the Bureau that flying discs are believed by the Air Force to be man-made missiles rather than some natural phenomenon and that as much as four years ago it was learned that some type of flying discs were being experimented upon by the Russians. It was further determined from Mr. E. that most all of the flying discs seen by persons in the United States approached this country from a northerly direction and returned in the same direction, indicating the strong possibility that they are coming from Russia."

"The Department of the Air Force has furnished to the Bureau a sufficient number of copies of a memorandum dated February 15, 1949 captioned "Unconventional Aircraft" which can be furnished to our field offices."

"At the present time this Bureau is conducting no investigation of information received in the field relating to the captioned matter."

It is recommended that the attached SAC letter and enclosure be forwarded to the field to advise them of the type of questions to be asked of persons who **voluntarily** (emphasis by present author) submit information relative to 'flying discs'. Although no active investigation will be conducted by the Bureau, it is believed that the captioned matter is of sufficient importance to the internal security of the country that our field offices should secure as much information as possible from complainants in order to assist the Department of the Air Force."

FBI POLICY RESTATED

The upsurge in AF interest in unidentified aerial phenomena in late 1948 and early 1949 resulted in a re-statement of the earlier policy by the FBI. The policy after Oct. 1, 1947 was set by bulletin No. 57 of that year: "All future reports connected with flying discs should be referred to the Air Forces and no investigative action should be taken by Bureau agents." The lack of UFO reports during late 1947 and throughout 1948 (there was one good report in 1948 in the section of the file that I have) indicates that the FBI agents were following instructions very well.

The attached letter to the Special Agents in Charge (SAC) was accepted and published as SAC Letter No. 38 on March 25, 1949. The letter read as follows:⁶⁰

"Your attention is directed to Bureau Bulletin No. 57, Series 1947, dated October 1, 1947, relating to the discontinuance of investigation by this Bureau in matters concerning flying discs."

For your confidential information, a reliable and confidential source has advised the Bureau that flying discs are believed to be man-made missiles rather than natural phenomenon. It has also been determined that for approximately the past four years the USSR has been engaged in experimentation on an unknown type of flying disc."

"The department of the Air Force has furnished to the Bureau the attached memorandum classified "restricted" dated February 15, 1949, entitled "Unconventional Aircraft". This memorandum is being furnished to you in order that all agents assigned to your office can be informed of the type of information desired by the Air Force in this matter."

"As set forth in Bureau Bulletin No. 57, referred to above, no investigation should be conducted by your office relative to flying discs, however, the attached memorandum should be referred to in securing data from persons who desire to voluntarily furnish information to your office relating to flying discs." (signed, John Edgar Hoover, Director).

This letter, which was referred to several times in later years, forms the basic core of FBI policy: don't go out and try to obtain UFO information, but if someone volunteers it, here are the questions you should ask. It is interesting that the information furnished by the Resident Engineer had himself admitted that he was not directly involved with the AF. UFO investigation, yet he was considered to be an authority.

1949 UFO CASES IN THE FBI FILE

The next interoffice memorandum of interest in the portion I obtained was written in March, 1950. Therefore, to maintain the historical order of presentation, I will turn from the collection of memoranda to the collection of good UFO cases once again. As pointed out before, 1948 was a dry year for UFO cases as far as the FBI was concerned. (According to Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14 the Air Force received 205 reports caused by an estimated 143 objects; some were foreign reports. This number of reports can be compared with 117 in 1947, 395 in 1949 and 306 in 1950, some of which were from foreign sources.) However, in 1949 things picked up again. Perhaps the FBI agents forgot they were supposed to keep out of the UFO business.

In January and in March the FBI received brief reports of bright objects over Kirtland AFB near Albuquerque, N.M. and at the Killeen Base near Camp Hood, Texas. These reports were not investigated by the FBI. A report which was investigated will now be presented. On May 3, 1949, J.E. Hoover received a letter from the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) at Los Angeles which stated:⁶¹ "A reliable and confidential source has

recently advised this Bureau that during the first part of April, 1949, . . . (name blanked out) Hollywood 27, California, had informed him that three employees of the Department of Recreation in Parks in the city of Los Angeles had noticed objects in the sky which appeared to be flying discs. The above information is being furnished to you for whatever action you desire and no investigation is being conducted relative thereto by the Bureau." Although the SAC did not investigate this case he apparently took more than just a passing interest in the next case in the FBI file, for he wrote about it to headquarters on May 13, 1949. . .

This letter also indicates that the FBI was "plugged into" the news media. The letter follows:⁶²

"On May 5, 1949, Mr. . . . , a reporter for the Sun-Star newspaper, Merced, Cal., advised Special Agent . . . [call him SA] that his paper had been contacted by Lt. Col. . . . Intelligence Officer, Castle Air Force Base, Merced, Calif., relative to any reports that the newspaper might have received concerning "flying discs" in the Merced vicinity."

Mr. . . . stated a close friend of his, one . . . 12-A Langdon Villa, Merced, had advised him that he had observed a strange object, and as he is in the Air Corps Reserve, he reported same to the Intelligence Officer at Castle field."

"On the same date Mr. . . . , Detachment Commander, Office of Special Investigations, Castle Air Force base, Merced, Cal. advised SA that he had heard that an individual had reported seeing a "flying disc" to the Intelligence Officer at the Base but that the Intelligence Officer had not furnished the information to him. Mr. . . . later on the same date contacted SA and exhibited a letter written by . . . , Lt. Col., USAF, Adjutant [Intelligence Officer] to Commanding General, Air material [sic] Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Wright Field, Ohio. This letter contained a statement given by Mr. . . . [the witness who was a friend of the newspaper reporter and who was in the Air Corps Reserve]. . . Which read as follows: 'I had occasion to step from my home, located approximately one mile west of the town of Merced, on the night of April 4, 1949, at approximately 2220 [i.e., 10:20 P.M.]. My attention was diverted to a clicking noise of considerable intensity. I stopped on the sidewalk about 20 feet from the front steps and recognized the source of this clicking to be in the sky in an area about 40 degrees from the surface of the earth in an easterly direction. The sky condition was 20000 thin broken [i.e., thin clouds at about 20,000 feet] with 12 miles visibility and surface winds were reported as north nine M.P.H. at Castle Air Force Weather Station. My home is approximately seven miles south of Castle AFB and in an area somewhat sheltered from surface winds, and no appreciable surface wind was apparent at the time the aural observation was made. After about ten seconds of looking into the area

described previously as being the source of this sound, an object was observed blanking out stars in describing a flight path in a west or northwesterly direction. Only one object was apparent, its shape can be described as only a solid mass. Its size can be estimated as four or five feet in diameter in keeping with an estimated altitude of considerably less than 1000 feet. Color was shown by the reflection of ground lights on only two occasions, and it appeared to be dull surfaced, light colored metal. The only ground lights of intensity were a row of street lights behind me one half block which leads me to believe the surface of this object to be curved in shape.'

'This object when first sighted, was moving very slowly in a west or northwesterly direction. I would estimate that I had it in my range of vision for 35 seconds, after having heard it about ten seconds before locating it. It passed on beyond the house and maneuvered through an arc of turn to the left of about ninety degrees. The clicking sound was continuous throughout this turn, however, it became louder as it returned on its new heading of south or southwest. On its return the clicking sound became louder, but I was unable to see at this time. The clicking stopped when it was at its greatest intensity and appeared to come from a position directly over head. I was unable to see the object after the sound stopped.'

'This clicking sound, retained the same pitch and speed throughout the entire course observed, but intensity varied. There was not whistle or roar, but only the clicking noise which might be compared to beaters of a home mixer that were not properly meshed. No lights or flame were observed during the entire course with exception of the previous described reflections twice. No exhaust trail was distinguishable.'

'My dog was with me and directed her attention in the general direction of this object's flight throughout its course. She had been romping with me on coming out of the house but without spoken word stopped and directed her attention on to [sic] the previously described area. The clicking sound might not have been unusual to the dog, but there is a possibility of sounds on wave lengths discernable only to the dog being emitted.'

(Note: this ends the report of the sighting.)

"It is to be noted that . . . (the witness) is a member of the Active USAF Reserve with the rank of Major. He had attained rating of pilot in August 1941 and has approximately 2200 hours flying time. During his active duty period in WW2 he stated that he had considerable night flying experience in connection with his military assignment. The Intelligence Officer in the above mentioned letter made the following statement, "An attempt to locate other witnesses in the area or through the local newspaper proved unsuccessful."

"The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau".

The preceding report, which is listed as unidentified in the Air Force file, has been presented in full because of the interesting details (clicking, animal reaction) and also because it indicates that FBI agents were interested in UFO reports and obtained information for the FBI in spite of Hoover's order to avoid UFO investigations.

Other 1949 cases are as follows:

-Teletype report of sightings from Ogden, Logan, and Trenton, Utah; April 5, 1949; initially identified by the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) as practice bombing missions.

-Letter from SAC, Little Rock which shows that the FBI agent interviewed a Ft. Smith, Arkansas resident about a sighting made while the observer was stopped at an intersection on Apr. 16, 1949. The SAC letter to the FBI headquarters stated that "the offices of OSI and MID have been notified . . .".

-A letter with newspaper clippings enclosed concerning "what has been described as a flying disc sighted at Radford, Virginia on May 12, 1949." The FBI agent made it clear in his letter that he had not talked to any of the witnesses.

-A letter from SAC, New Orleans which informed the Bureau that the office of Naval Intelligence had received reports of "single discs" which had been seen travelling over New Orleans on May 18, 19, and 23. The Navy informed the Bureau that Army Intelligence had investigated these cases (which, however, are in the Air Force file).

-A copy of the official Navy report made by Lt. Shell of a sighting of several "discs" while flying in an airplane in southern Oregon on May 27. For part of the time the objects were at a lower altitude than he and he could see them "outlined against the bluffs" which were about 10 miles away. The Air Force left this case unidentified.

-A teletype referring to a sighting made in Canada which was reported to the Air Force in Nebraska.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Cont.)

59. FBI document written 3/14/49
60. SAC letter #38, series 1949, 3/25/49
61. Letter dated May 2, 1949
63. Letter dated May 13, 1949

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